



KALIHI – PALAMA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 15

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006 KAPALAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Pro Tem Bernie Young called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. without a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Harding, Eric Purcell, Casey Sakai, Jamie Harvest-Silva, Tracy Sakai, and Bernie Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Akamine, Jesusa Ronne, Irene Takizawa, and Shane Yaw.

GUESTS: John Dell (John Dell has been present in all meetings since September of 2005) Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Keoki Miyamoto (Deputy Director, Department of Facilities Maintenance – Mayor’s Representative), Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 member), Senator Gordon Trimble and Kristi Sue-Ako (Senator Trimble’s Staff); Kurt Kawafuchi (Director, State Department of Taxation – Governor’s Representative), Dennis Galolo (Councilmember Cachola’s staff); Capt. Russell Dang (Honolulu Fire Department – HFD); Sgt. J. Pedro and Officer Killum (Honolulu Police Department – HPD); Sue Berg (Senator Chun Oakland’s staff), Bev Ho (Representative Ching’s staff), Jake Manendeg (Representative Abinsay’s staff), Kauai Hilo (Board of Water Supply – BWS), Lorraine Robinson (TJ Mahoney & Associates), Anna (Representative Ching’s staff); Ross Tsukenjo (Senator Donna Mercado Kim’s staff); Joey Manahan (Neighborhood Commission office staff).

DEFERRAL OF AGENDA ITEMS: Chair Young announced that agenda items requiring votes have to be deferred until there is the required quorum of 10 members present out of the total of 19 seats.

ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES (TWO VACANCIES IN SUBDISTRICT 1, THREE VACANCIES IN SUBDISTRICT 2 AND TWO VACANCIES IN SUBDISTRICT 3) – Chair Young deferred the item due to the absence of a voting quorum.

RESIDENTS’ CONCERNS – Chair Young asked for general concern issues from the community:

Karl Rhoads reported the following:

1. Thanked HPD for the clean-up under Olomea Street bridge.
2. Complaints about trash being dumped at the corner of Austin & Lopez.
3. A complaint about people fighting and smoking pakalolo right behind 824 Lakimela Lane.
4. Reported cars being broken into along Kokea & Koho between Olomea and King.
5. People would like to have more street lights on the Kapalama Canal side of both Kokea and Kohou Street.
6. Residents at 842 N. King would like to have the bus stop in front of their house removed or at least moved up the street.
7. Rhoads reported complaints about flashers in Aala Park.

The Chair and the Board recognized and commended Karl Rhoads for his efforts in walking the neighborhood and taking the time to address the residents’ concerns.



COMMUNITY REPORTS:

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) – Officer Killam reported the statistics for the month of February. In response to reports of ‘flashers’ in Aala Park, Officer Killam replied HPD would investigate.

Sgt. Pedro announced that Major Ballard and other officers had been promoted and will no longer be able to attend the meetings.

The Chair thanked HPD for their reports.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) – Russell Dang reported 12 fires, 86 medical calls and 19 rescues.

Fire Safety Tip: Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Be responsible and dispose of all fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Work together with your community to make it safer. Make and maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing the vegetation surrounding all structures. Report and remove hazards. Communicate with each other. Formulate plans for yourself, your family, and your neighborhood in case of emergencies. Now is the time to prepare for the brush fire season. If you are interested in creating a safe space around your home, street, or community, you may contact Denise Laitinen of Firewise at (808) 281-3497 or go to www.firewise.org. (Distribute Firewise brochure.)

The Chair thanked Capt. Dang for his report.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS) – BWS staff member Kauai Hilo reported on the following for the Kalihi Palama area:

Although Detect-A-Leak Week was last week, the Board of Water Supply wants to make sure you know how to find hidden water wasters year-round.

Check your house periodically for leaks. This should be integral to your overall maintenance efforts, as it can save you money in the long run by reducing unnecessary water waste in your home. To see if you have a property leak:

1. Make sure you turn off all the devices that use water in your home.
2. Go out to your water meter and check to see if the red arrow or small black triangle on the meter is still moving. If so, you have a leak somewhere on your property.
3. Call a licensed plumber to find the leak and fix it.

Check your toilet. Because the toilet is one of the largest water using fixtures in your house, it can also be one of the largest water WASTERS too. To see if you have a leaky toilet:

1. Remove your toilet tank cover and drop in a blue dye tablet (you can get them from the Board of Water Supply) or a couple of drops of food coloring.
2. Wait 10-15 minutes. If the color appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.
3. Check your toilet's flapper valve and replace if necessary, or call your plumber.

Hilo was thanked for attending the meeting.

MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE – Keoki Miyamoto (Deputy Director, Department of Facilities Maintenance) distributed the Mayor's report and highlighted that Mayor Hannemann is encouraging community commitment to waste management and recycling in order to achieve the short-term goal to cut down on landfill use, reporting the curb side collection of green waste through those areas that already have the City's blue containers.

BOARD RECESS: Chair Young declared a recess at 7:45 p.m. for refreshments; Chair Young reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 16, APRIL 20, MAY 18, JUNE 15, JULY 20, AUGUST 17, SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 19, NOVEMBER 16 2005, JANUARY 18, 2006 and FEBRUARY 15, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Chair Young deferred the item due to lack of quorum.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, AND OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2005 AND JANUARY 2006 TREASURER'S REPORTS – Chair Young deferred the item due to lack of quorum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chair Young deferred the items of Aala Park Skating Rink and Earth Justice.

PRESENTATION: TESORO – Chester Koga, acting as individual representing the proposed project, reported the following:

Tesoro Hawaii Corporation plans to upgrade their Sand Island Road terminal site by improving their existing fuel storage and transfer facilities. Tesoro also contracts another fuel storage and transfer facility located at 411 Pacific Street in Iwilei. The Iwilei fuel storage and transfer facility has a capacity of approximately 350,000 barrels. The Iwilei facility comprises 85-95 percent of Tesoro's fuel storage and transfer operations. The Iwilei property was purchased by a North Carolina based national home improvement retailer from the private property owner in early 2005. The use agreement for the Iwilei site will terminate on August 31, 2006, Tesoro proposes to commence construction this spring with construction lasting approximately 6-12 months for Phase 1. Phase 1 includes seven ground storage tanks (Tanks 1,2,5,6, 7,8, and 9) and the installation of a vapor combustion or recovery unit loading rack.

Phase 2 includes proposed office building and tanks 3 and 4 for installation in 2007. The proposed office building will be located on the northwest corner of the property and have a footprint of approximately 3,000 square feet and a total floor space of 6,000 square feet.

The proposed activity is located on the western end of Honolulu Harbor on the island of Oahu. The street address is 2 Sand Island Access Road. To the North is Keehi Lagoon Access Road. The property directly across the Keehi Lagoon Access Road is also owned by DOT and leased to the Honolulu Fueling Facilities Corporation (HFFC). HFFC currently uses the property as a fuel storage area, similar to the proposed project site. The project area is bordered to the west by Keehi Lagoon Small Boat Harbor. The south edge of the property is adjacent to a vacant State of Hawaii lot (TMK: 1-2-025:018), which separates the project site from the Kalihi Channel.

Improvements will also include an upgraded entry driveway from Keehi Lagoon Access Road as well as improved fire protection measures in accordance with Uniform Fire Code. The existing earthen containment berm around the property will be retained and improved as necessary.

As the project being reviewed was not in this neighborhood board area, the board would not take official action, but requested the following concerns be relayed to the project managers and related reviewing authorities by Mr. Koga.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. The Chair and the Board raised concerns about the location of the facility being close to the water should a natural disaster strike such as tsunami or a hurricane.
2. John Dell raised concerns about the berm, which would contain the fuel in the event of a spill. Despite 110% containment, the soil would still have to be disposed, and the fuel would percolate in the soil. An even greater problem since the area is adjacent to the ocean and barely above sea-level.

3. National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) advised against the tanks being located so close to the ocean, but rather placed inland as the area will surely in time be impacted by hurricanes and tsunamis.
4. The Chair expressed concerns regarding placing all the tanks in one place. She also recommended using Campbell Industrial Park as a possible alternative.
5. John Dell requested Tesoro provide alternatives to the Sand Island Location and expressed concerns to an open-flame shipyard being located close in proximity.
6. In response to a question from the Chair regarding jet fuel being stored at the facility, Koga assured the Board that the facility would only contain petroleum, diesel, and possibly ethanol.

Mr. Koga was thanked for his presentation.

HONOLULU TRIATHLON—Mr. Steve Foster reported the following:

Swim 1.5K Swim Course - The Age Group Swim has been moved to the beautiful beaches of Ala Moana Park. This very safe 1,500 meter swim will be a single loop course that will take athletes along the shore for great spectator viewing. The swim course will be monitored by life guards, jet skis, kayakers and boats.

Bike 40K Bike Course - The 40K Bike Course will start from the transition area in Ala Moana Park. Cyclist will head out onto Ala Moana Blvd. and ride to the Nimitz Highway and then head to the Kamehameha Highway. Athletes will turn right onto Salt Lake Blvd. near Aloha Stadium make a u-turn and head back to the Kamehameha Highway. Once back onto the Kamehameha Highway, athletes will follow the Kamehameha Highway back under the viaduct heading east until they reach Lagoon Drive. Once on Lagoon Drive competitors will ride a simple out and back on that 2.3 mile section of roadway before turning right back onto the Kamehameha Highway and under the viaduct. Athletes will continue to ride under the viaduct until they reach the Nimitz Highway and onto Ala Moana Blvd. as they head back to the transition area. Race management will provide mobile bike support on sections of this 40K course. Should you need assistance, please be patient until bike support arrives.

Run 10K Run Course - The run course will run a double loop course in the area around Ala Moana Park. Competitors will exit transition and head north towards Ala Moana Blvd. exiting the park at the eastern end. The run course will then head west on Ala Moana Blvd. until reaching Koula St, where it will turn right. Runners will head up Koula briefly before making a U-turn and returning. The U-turn to begin the second loop will be at the far end of Ala Moana park where they exited to start the run. The second loop of the course will mimic the first, turning into the park after the second loop is completed. The final section of the course passes transition, and finishes on the grass in Magic Island Park.

Special traffic controls will be in effect in the Ala Moana Park area of Honolulu for the 2006 Honolulu Triathlon on Sunday, May 14, 2006. Some bus routes will be canceled and/or detoured. Bus riders may call The BUS at 848-5555 or visit the Oahu Transit Services website for details. For Triathlon-related traffic information please call the Triathlon Office (Race Week Only) at 866-454-6561.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. Member Ken Harding suggested that events and event coordinators consider adopting areas such as Sand Island to balance the event and its involvement with the community. Harding also suggested using Sand Island as launching point for the swim portion to help promote the area.
2. John Dell reiterated that the event will take place on a Sunday as not to disrupt the normal course of business and traffic in the area.

3. Mr. Foster mentioned that there will be about 2000 people this year and their goal in two-years is to reach 4000 people. He mentioned that the course was redesigned to have as little impact on the community as possible, but he did mention that for a few hours, the Sand Island area will be closed off to incoming and outgoing traffic. Mr. Foster also mentioned that the event would be finished and cleaned up by noon on the same day.
4. In response to Dell's question about lane closure, Mr. Foster replied one full lane at least will be dedicated to the race as any less would pose safety issues for the racers.

The Chair thanked Mr. Foster for attending the meeting.

ELECTED OFFICIALS: Chair Young noted that elected officials are invited to participate based on the rule of three minutes per speaker (strictly enforced) and that a short written report is appreciated.

GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE – Kurt Kawafuchi (Director, State Department of Taxation) represented Governor Lingle and discussed the following: 1) State revenues are estimated to be very strong at 12.2 % above last year. 2) Community members are encouraged to file taxes electronically. 3) Taxation help line telephone hours have been expanded to 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 4) Several proposals for tax relief are before the legislature from the administration. 5) Three quarters of a million taxpayers will have a refund of \$500 or more. 6) A proposal is to expand the tax bracket for future years.

COUNCILMEMBER ROMY CACHOLA – Dennis Galolo distributed Councilmember Cachola's monthly report and highlighted the following:

1. Workers from the Department of Facility and Maintenance (DFM) Division of Road Maintenance will conduct a street sweeping on Pua Lane sometime before the end of March 2006.
2. Mayor Hannemann signed Bill 74 into law. The purpose of the bill is to make it unlawful for persons to tamper with or remove parts from motor vehicles parked on public streets, highways, or pedestrian malls, except for repairs necessitated by emergencies such as replacing a car battery or flat tire. The bill, in essence, puts an end to Action Towing's activities.
3. Councilmember Cachola submitted testimony in support for measures that would urge owners of Kukui Gardens to sell the project to a qualified affordable housing non-profit organization.
4. In response to a constituent's request, Councilmember Cachola sent a request for investigation and service report (RISR) to the administration regarding the removal of bulky items found in the Kapalama Canal between Olomea Street and North King Street.

Galolo was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble reported that the previously discussed tax surplus will be distributed as pay raises for the HGEA union members, although he feels there are education and higher education needs. He reported that the standard deduction has not been raised for 20 years and is too low. He distributed a written legislative report and a flyer, which featured a fund-raising project for the Waikiki Community Center, with his offer to assist area community groups in their fund raising projects.

SENATOR NORMAN SAKAMEHAMEHAOTO – Report was distributed.

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM – Ross Tsukenjo distributed the Senator's report and highlighted her bill introductions, which have crossed over to the House of Representatives. They include bills SB 965 relating to electronic surveillance, SB 2972 relating to recycling, and SB 2980 relating to education.

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND – Sue Berg represented Senator Oakland and distributed her report. Berg commended Ken Harding for his ideas regarding the Honolulu Triathlon adopting Sand Island or using it as a launching point for the triathlon.

REPRESENTATIVE JUN ABINSAY – Chair Young noted that Representative Abinsay's report had been distributed earlier in the meeting. Jake Manegdeg highlighted cross over bills and Capital Improvement Projects as they relate to the representative district 29.

REPRESENTATIVE BEV HARBIN – No representative was present.

REPRESENTATIVE CORINNE CHING – Anna represented Representative Ching and stressed that history preservation year would be recognized by a joint museum display at the capital, that an "I Love Liliha" event was tentatively planned for August 26, 2006 at Kawananakoa Middle School and that a flyer was available on legislation. She distributed a report and was available for questions.

REPRESENTATIVE LYNN FINNEGAN: No representative was present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Young reported that other Neighborhood Boards are offering criticism of the Kalihi-Palama Board for not having members turn out to the meeting, including the agenda item of Tesoro, although the tankers are going into Sand Island, not docking in other Board's areas. She noted that no one was asking the other boards to deal with Kalihi-Palama area issues. She encouraged other members to attend future meetings and for changes to be made to the Neighborhood Plan to allow for possible corrective action to attendance problems that might occur in the future.

ADJOURNMENT: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Joey Manahan, Neighborhood Commission Office staff